Lower San Joaquin River Committee

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Current Status and Problem

- 2004 Salt and Boron Basin Plan Amendments and TMDL
  - Meet salinity water quality at Vernalis to protect agricultural beneficial uses in the Delta

Season	EC* (umhos/cm)	Boron** (mg/L)
Irrigation	700	0.8
Non-irrigation	1,000	1.0
Critical Year	--	1.3

* = 30-day running average ** = monthly mean

  - Develop salt and boron objectives for the SJR upstream of Vernalis

Approach

- Initially: Central Valley Water Board staff effort
- 2010: Moved under the umbrella of CV-SALTS
  - Provide consistency for salinity activities in Central Valley
  - Formed Lower San Joaquin River Committee (LSJRC)
    - Stakeholder lead effort

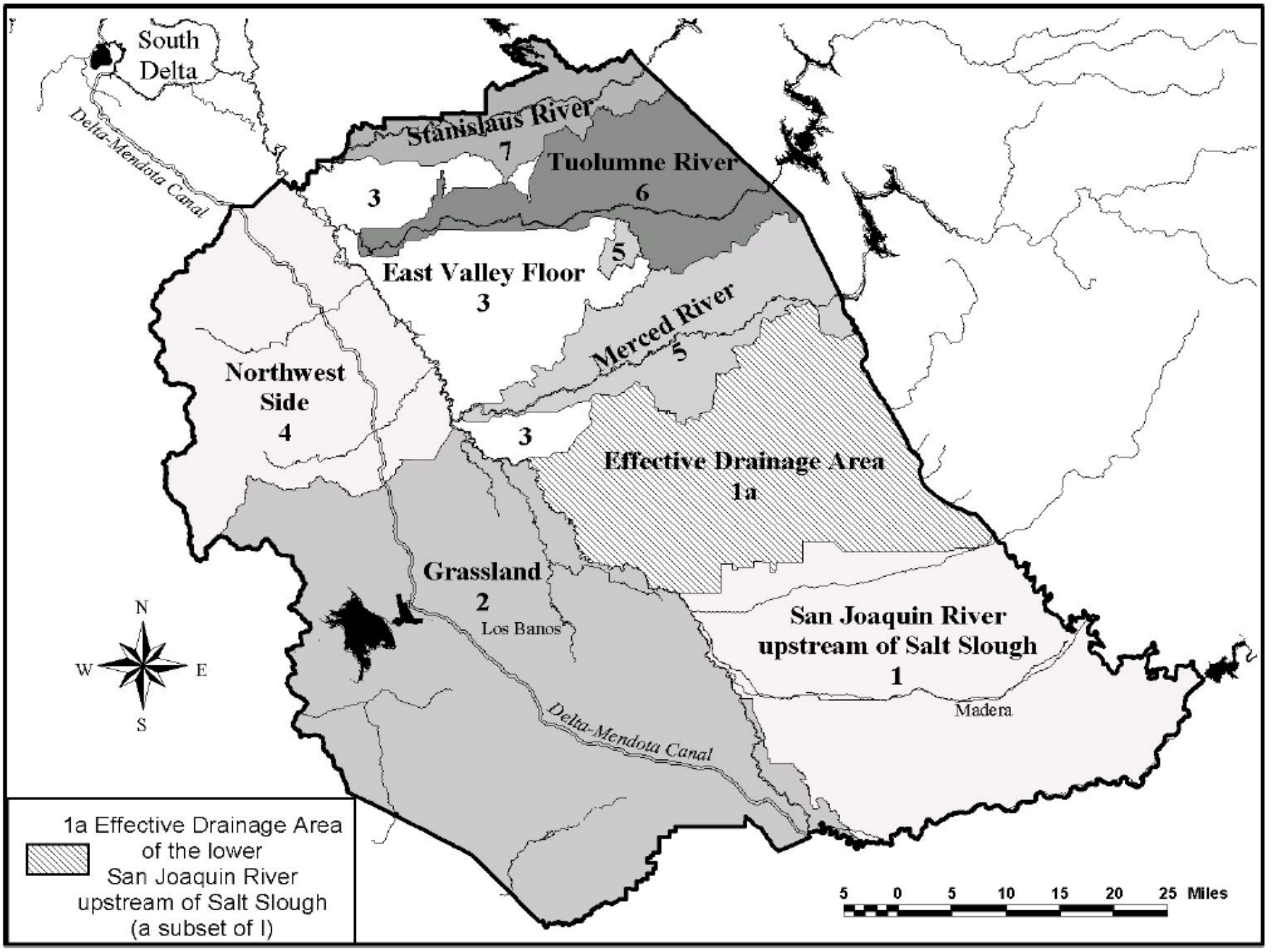
LSJRC

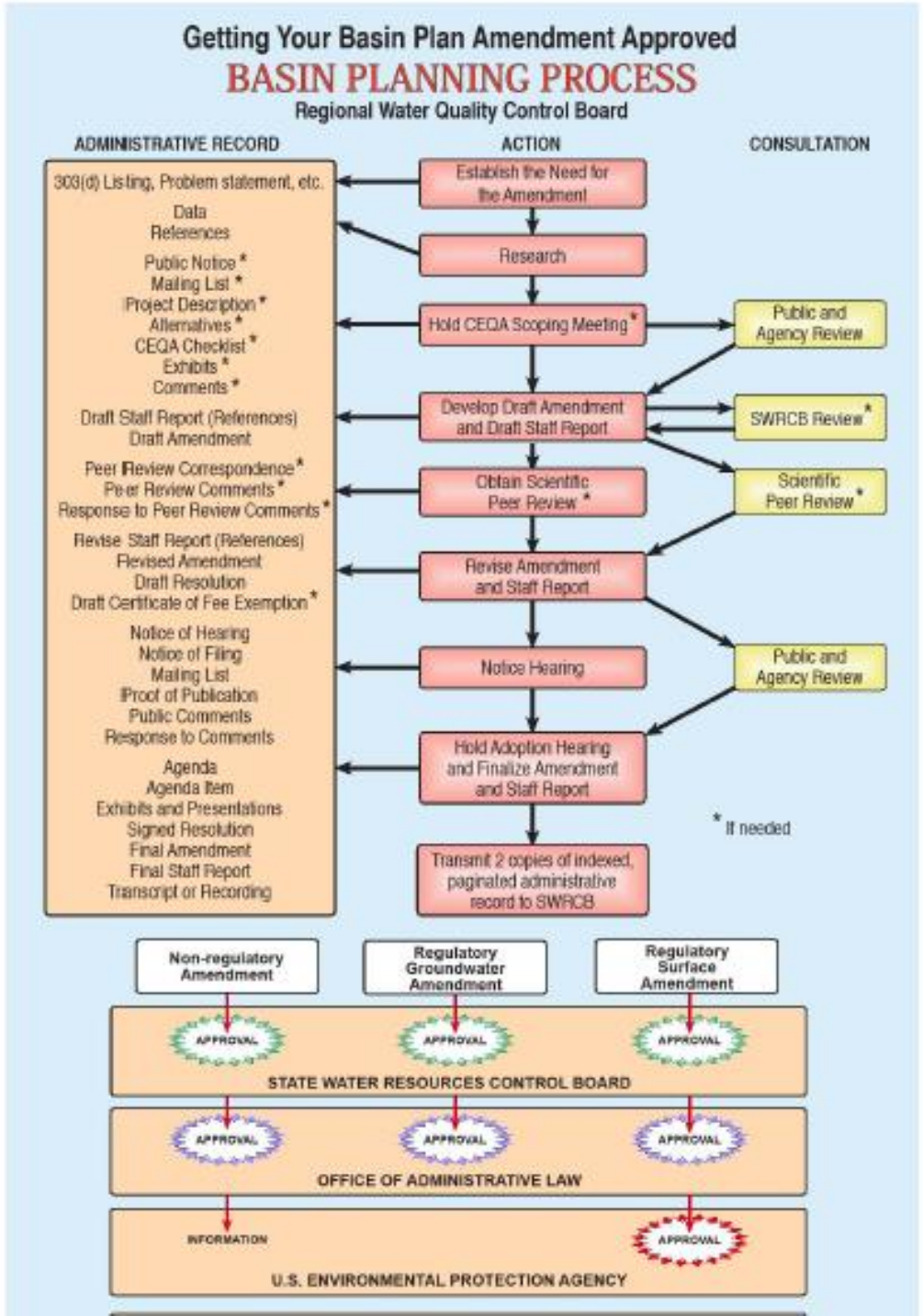
- Stakeholder based
  - Open membership
  - Anyone can join at any time
- LSJRC manager
- Technical contractor
  - Larry Walker Associates, Davis
- Monthly meetings in Modesto
- Should finish work in 2015

LSJRC Goals

Basin Plan Amendment—Salt/B water quality objectives

- Maximum protection of beneficial uses
- Maintain capability to increase level of beneficial use
- Develop a comprehensive plan to achieve salt balance
- Establish water quality objectives and implementation mechanisms to protect beneficial uses of the LSJR and downstream
- Develop objectives and implementation based on sound science
- Identify feasible plans for funding implementation alternatives
- Develop broad public understanding and ownership of the salt management plan
- Provide regulatory certainty to encourage capital investment and long-range planning
- Use common language, understanding and decision tools


South Delta
Delta-Mendota Canal
Stanislaus River
7
Tuolumne River
6
3
5
East Valley Floor
3
Merced River
5
Northwest Side
4
3
Effective Drainage Area
1a
Grassland
2
Los Banos
San Joaquin River upstream of Salt Slough
1
Madera
Delta-Mendota Canal
N
W
E
S
1a Effective Drainage Area of the lower San Joaquin River upstream of Salt Slough (a subset of I)
5 0 5 10 15 20 25 Miles


Getting Your Basin Plan Amendment Approved
BASIN PLANNING PROCESS
Regional Water Quality Control Board
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD
ACTION
CONSULTATION
303(d) Listing, Problem statement, etc.
Data
References
Public Notice *
Mailing List *
Project Description *
Alternatives *
CEQA Checklist *
Exhibits *
Comments *
Draft Staff Report (References)
Draft Amendment
Peer Review Correspondence *
Peer Review Comments *
Response to Peer Review Comments *
Revise Staff Report (References)
Revised Amendment
Draft Resolution
Draft Certificate of Fee Exemption *
Notice of Hearing
Notice of Filing
Mailing List
Proof of Publication
Public Comments
Response to Comments
Agenda
Agenda Item
Exhibits and Presentations
Signed Resolution
Final Amendment
Final Staff Report
Transcript or Recording
Establish the Need for the Amendment
Research
Hold CEQA Scoping Meeting *
Develop Draft Amendment and Draft Staff Report
Obtain Scientific Peer Review *
Revise Amendment and Staff Report
Notice Hearing
Hold Adoption Hearing and Finalize Amendment and Staff Report
Transmit 2 copies of indexed, paginated administrative record to SWRCB
Public and Agency Review
SWRCB Review *
Scientific Peer Review *
Public and Agency Review
* If needed
Non-regulatory Amendment
Regulatory Groundwater Amendment
Regulatory Surface Amendment
APPROVAL
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
INFORMATION
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Tasks

- Technical Tasks – LWA
  - Review Beneficial Uses of water in SJR
  - Water quality criteria review
    - Documents developed by CV SALTS (MUN, AGR, Aquatic Life, Stock Watering)
  - Identify potential range of Water Quality Objectives
  - Conduct water quality and salt loading characterization
    - Compile and update water quality data
    - Update 2004 staff report analysis of baseline salt loading
    - Conduct analysis of existing water quality and compliance with possible Water Quality Objectives

Tasks

- Conduct implementation planning
  - Identify implementation alternatives
  - Develop methods to screen alternatives
  - Select alternatives for detailed analysis
  - Conduct detailed analysis
  - Propose alternative for implementation
  - Develop and define the program of implementation

Implementation Alternatives

TMDL Approach (similar to current Vernalis Approach)

- Waste load allocations for point source discharges are concentration based
  - Equal to the existing salinity water quality objectives for the LSJR at the Airport Way Bridge near Vernalis.
- Fixed load allocations for nonpoint source dischargers
- Fixed base load allocations designed to protect water quality during low flow conditions.
  - Implementation is by subarea
- Limiting discharges through fixed load allocations, however, could result in a **net salt build-up in the LSJR** watershed because salts would continue to be imported to the watershed in supply water but salt exports would be significantly restricted.

Implementation Alternatives

Real-Time Management

- Develop opportunity for dischargers to use **real-time allocations** to maximize salt exports while still meeting water quality objectives. Real-time load allocations are formulaic, based on actual real-time flow and water quality conditions.
- Dischargers participating in a Regional Board approved real-time management program would be allowed to use real-time load allocations in lieu of the fixed base load allocations.

Tasks

- Economic analysis
- Develop long-term monitoring program
- Prepare Substitute Environmental Documentation

Summary

- Surface water focus on salt and boron
- Stakeholder driven process
- Technical work initiated within last month
- Explore implementation options including real-time management
- Will complete work sometime in early 2015
- Work product is a Basin Plan Amendment
  - Salt and boron water quality objectives in LSJR and an implementation program